

1 CLAIMS:

2 Having thus described our invention, what we claim as
3 new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as
4 follows:

5 1. In a system having a client computer, and apparatus
6 for connecting said client computer to a network having
7 a server for backing up said client computer, a method
8 for transferring data from said client computer to said
9 server, comprising:

10 connecting said client computer to said network;
11 backing up data on said client computer to a
12 storage device attached to said network when said
13 client computer is connected to said network; and
14 transferring the data from said storage device to
15 said server.

16 2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said
17 transferring of said data from said storage device to
18 said server occurs at a time determined by said server.

19 3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said
20 connecting comprises connecting said client computer to
21 a docking station connected to said network.

22 4. A method as recited in claim 3, wherein the storage
23 device is associated with said docking station.

1 5. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
2 connecting said client computer to said network a
3 plurality of times before said server backs up said
4 data on said client computer, and
5 creating a new data set on said storage device for
6 transfer to said server each time said client computer
7 is connected to said network.

8 6. A method as recited in claim 5, wherein said data
9 sets are transferred to said server in the order in
10 which said data sets were created.

11 7. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said
12 connecting comprises establishing a data transfer link
13 between said client computer and said data storage
14 device.

15 8. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein said data
16 transfer link comprises one of a wireless link and an
17 infrared link.

18 9. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein if said
19 client computer is off when connected to said network,
20 the method further comprises:

21 powering up a storage device in said client
22 computer; and

23 transferring data stored on said storage device in
24 said client computer to said storage device attached to
25 said network.

1 10. A method as recited in claim 9, wherein if power
2 to said client computer is turned on during transfer of
3 data stored on said storage device in said client
4 computer to said storage device attached to said
5 network, said transfer of data is suspended while said
6 client computer boots up.

7 11. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein if said
8 client computer is initially on when connected to said
9 network, but said client computer is turned off, the
10 method further comprises suspending transferring data
11 stored on a storage device in said client computer to
12 said storage device attached to said network, to
13 permitting normal backup of files on said client
14 computer.

15 12. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein if said
16 client computer is disconnected from said network
17 during a first backing up of data on said client
18 computer to a storage device attached to said network,
19 and said client computer is again connected to said
20 network, the method further comprises backing up said
21 client computer to said storage device on said network
22 a second time, and transferring sequentially to said
23 server data transferred to said storage device before
24 said client was disconnected from said network, and
25 then data transferred to said storage device during
26 said second time.

1 13. A system for backing up data on a client computer
2 to a server on a network, said system comprising:

3 connection apparatus for connecting said client
4 computer to said network; and

5 a storage device connected to said network for
6 backing up data from said client computer when said
7 client computer is connected to said network, said
8 storage device being configured to transfer said data
9 to said server at a time determined by said server.

10 14. A system as recited in claim 13, wherein said
11 connection apparatus is a docking station for said
12 client computer.

13 15. A system as recited in claim 14, wherein said
14 storage device is associated with said docking station.

15 16. A system as recited in claim 13, further
16 comprising an interface between said connection
17 apparatus and said storage device, said interface
18 having a processor to facilitate transfer of data.

19 17. A system as recited in claim 13, wherein said
20 client computer may be connected to said network
21 multiple times before data is transferred to said
22 server, said system further comprising:

23 means for creating a new data set on said storage
24 device for transfer to said server each time said
25 client computer is connected to said network.

1 18. A system as recited in claim 17, further
2 comprising means for transferring said data sets to
3 said server in the order in which said data set were
4 created.

5 19. A system as recited in claim 13, wherein said
6 connection apparatus comprises a data transfer link
7 between said client computer and said data storage
8 device.

9 20. A system as recited in claim 19, wherein said data
10 transfer link comprises one of a wireless link and an
11 infrared link.

12 21. A system as recited in claim 13, further
13 comprising means for powering up a storage device in
14 said client computer if said client computer is off
15 when connected to said network.

16
17 22. A system as recited in claim 21, further
18 comprising means for suspending transfer of data that
19 is stored on said storage device in said client
20 computer to said storage device attached to said
21 network, while said client computer boots up, if power
22 to said client computer is turned on during the
23 transfer of data stored on said storage device in said
24 client computer to said storage device attached to said
25 network.

1 23. A system as recited in claim 13, further
2 comprising means for suspending normal backup of files
3 on said client computer while transferring data stored
4 on a storage device in said client computer to said
5 storage device attached to said network if said client
6 computer is initially on when connected to said
7 network, but said client computer is turned off.

8 24. A system as recited in claim 13, wherein if said
9 client computer is disconnected from said network
10 during a first backing up of data on said client
11 computer to a storage device attached to said network,
12 and said client computer is again connected to said
13 network, the system further comprises means for backing
14 up said client computer to said storage device on said
15 network a second time, and means for transferring
16 sequentially to said server data transferred to said
17 storage device before said client was disconnected from
18 said network, and then data transferred to said storage
19 device during said second time.

20 25. A computer program product comprising a computer
21 usable medium having computer readable program code
22 means embodied thereon, the computer readable program
23 code means being for use in a system having a client
24 computer, and apparatus for connecting said client
25 computer to a network having a server for backing up
26 said client computer, the computer readable program
27 code means being for causing a computer to effect a

1 method for transferring data from said client computer
2 to said server, the method comprising:

3 connecting said client computer to said network;
4 backing up data on said client computer to a
5 storage device attached to said network when said
6 client computer is connected to said network; and
7 transferring the data from said storage device to
8 said server.

9 26. A computer program product as recited in claim 25,
10 wherein in the method, said transferring of said data
11 from said storage device to said server occurs at a
12 time determined by said server.

13 27. A computer program product as recited in claim 25,
14 wherein in the method, said connecting comprises
15 connecting said client computer to a docking station
16 connected to said network.

17 28. A computer program product as recited in claim 27,
18 wherein in the method, the storage device is associated
19 with said docking station.

20 29. A computer program product as recited in claim 25,
21 wherein the method further comprises:

22 connecting said client computer to said network a
23 plurality of times before said server backs up said
24 data on said client computer, and

1 creating a new data set on said storage device for
2 transfer to said server each time said client computer
3 is connected to said network.

4 30. A computer program product as recited in claim 25,
5 wherein in the method, said data sets are transferred
6 to said server in the order in which said data set were
7 created.

8 31. A computer program product as recited in claim 25,
9 wherein in the method, said connecting comprises
10 establishing a data transfer link between said client
11 computer and said data storage device.

12 32. A computer program product as recited in claim 31,
13 wherein in the method, said data transfer link
14 comprises one of a wireless link and an infrared link.

15 33. A computer program product as recited in claim 25,
16 wherein if said client computer is off when connected
17 to said network, the method further comprises:

18 powering up a storage device in said client
19 computer; and

20 transferring data stored on said storage device in
21 said client computer to said storage device attached to
22 said network.

23 34. A computer program product as recited in claim 33,
24 further comprising computer readable code means so that
25 in the method, if power to said client computer is

1 turned on during transfer of data stored on said
2 storage device in said client computer to said storage
3 device attached to said network, said transfer of data
4 is suspended while said client computer boots up.

5 35. A computer program product as recited in claim 25,
6 further comprising computer readable code means so that
7 in the method, if said client computer is initially on
8 when connected to said network, but said client
9 computer is turned off, the method further comprising
10 suspending normal backup of files on said client
11 computer while transferring data stored on a storage
12 device in said client computer to said storage device
13 attached to said network.

14 36. A computer program product as recited in claim 25,
15 further comprising computer readable code means so that
16 in the method, if said client computer is disconnected
17 from said network during a first backing up of data on
18 said client computer to a storage device attached to
19 said network, and said client computer is again
20 connected to said network, the method further comprises
21 backing up said client computer to said storage device
22 on said network a second time, and transferring
23 sequentially to said server data transferred to said
24 storage device before said client was disconnected from
25 said network, and then data transferred to said storage
26 device during said second time.